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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7639
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0570
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7288
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0648
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 1200
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0248
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1776
RHMFIASS/COMUSKOREA J5 SEOUL KOR
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFIASS/COMUSKOREA J2 SEOUL KOR
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/18/2015
TAGS: KUNR PHUM UNHRC PREL KS
SUBJECT: ROK OPPOSES IRAN'S HRC CANDIDACY

REF: A. STATE 66050

1B. SEOUL 1279
1C. STATE 60967

Classified By: POL M/C Joseph Y. Yun. Reasons 1.4 (b), (d).

11. (C) On April 27, POL M/C delivered Ref A points, urging opposition to Iran's candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council, to Cho Tae-yong, Director-General of the North American Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The same points were also delivered to Jang Hyun-cheol, Deputy Director of MOFAT's Human Rights and Social Affairs Division. Jang confirmed that Seoul was determined not to support Iran's HRC candidacy. In general, the ROK would oppose any country for the HRC that faced international criticism for its human rights practices, such as Iran. Jang noted that Iran was the subject of an UNGA human rights resolution in 2005. Seoul also would oppose those that voted against the establishment of the HRC.

12. (C) Asked whether the ROK would be willing to campaign against Iran, Jang acknowledged that the ROK was focusing on getting itself elected the HRC. Seoul was cautiously optimistic about its chances, having already accepted proposals from others for mutual support of each others' HRC candidacy, Jang noted. Iran had proposed the same thing, but Korea declined.

13. (SBU) Poloff separately conveyed Ref A points for informational purposes to MOFAT's UN Division.

VERSHBOW